



ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING
State Form 55860 (R / 10-15)
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
IC 4-2-6-9

FILED

APR 22 2025

INDIANA STATE
ETHICS COMMISSION

In accordance with IC 4-2-6-9, you must file your disclosure with the State Ethics Commission no later than **seven (7)** days after the conduct that gives rise to the conflict. You must also include a copy of the notification provided to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer when filing this disclosure. This disclosure will be posted on the Inspector General's website.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| Name (<i>last</i>) Johnston | Name (<i>first</i>) Brenda | Name (<i>middle</i>) | |
| Name of office or agency Indiana Arts Commission | | Job title Grant Reviewer (Special State Appointee) | |
| Address of office (<i>number and street</i>) 100 N Senate Ave., N505 | | City Indianapolis | ZIP code 46204 |
| Office telephone number (317) 232-1269 | Office e-mail address (<i>required</i>) grantsadmin@iac.in.gov | | |
| Describe the conflict of interest: Ms. Johnston serves as a Grant Reviewer for the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) FY26-27 Arts Organization Support (AOS) Grant Program and its considered a Special State Appointee, as defined in IC 4-2-6-1 (18). | | | |
| Ms. Johnston has disclosed to the IAC that she has a conflict of interest with two (2) organizations who are applying for the FY26-27 AOS Grant Program: | | | |
| A) Kids Dance Outreach (Indianapolis, IN) - Ms. Johnston serves as a Board Member and President of the Organization's Board. This was disclosed to the IAC via its Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form prior to the grant panel assignments. | | | |
| B) ArtMix, Inc. (Indianapolis, IN) - Ms. Johnston disclosed she is friends with the Executive Director of this organization, additionally a former student of Ms. Johnston is employed at this organization. This was disclosed to the IAC via email after Ms. Johnston was assigned a list of all the grants applications to be reviewed. | | | |

Describe the screen established by your ethics officer: (Attach additional pages as needed.)

Ethics Screen for Ms. Johnston:

1) Ms. Johnston has disclosed to the IAC about the two (2) conflict of interest. Per the IAC's Grant Reviewer's Conflict of Interest Standard Operating Procedure (IAC-OPS-007) the following screenings have been established by the IAC:

A) Kids Dance Outreach (Indianapolis, IN): Ethics Screen A, the Grant Reviewer was assigned to a different Grant Review Panel.

B) ArtMix, Inc. (Indianapolis, IN): Ethics Screen C, the Grant Reviewer was removed from the discussion and scoring of the grant application review during the Grant Review Zoom Meeting that took place on Monday, April 21, 2025.

AFFIRMATION

Your signature below affirms that your disclosures on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. In addition to this form, you have attached a copy of your written disclosure to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer.

Signature of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Brenda Johnston

Date signed (month, day, year)

April 22, 2025

Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Brenda Johnston

FOR ETHICS OFFICER USE ONLY

Your signature below affirms that you have reviewed this disclosure form and that it is true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. You also attest that your agency has implemented the screen described above.

Signature of ethics officer

Andre' Z. Hay Jones

Date signed (month, day, year)

04/22/25

Printed full name of ethics officer

Andre' Z. Hay Jones



Outlook

[Ethics Notice] Brenda Johnston, Conflict of Interest / Kids Dance Outreach; ArtMix, Inc.

From Zhang Sonera, André <AZhangsonera@iac.IN.gov>

Date Tue 04/22/2025 12:15 PM

To Anne Penny Valentine <indy.penny@yahoo.com>

Cc Michaelsen, Miah <MMichaelsen@iac.IN.gov>

1 attachment (845 KB)

Johnston, Brenda - Disclosure Form.pdf;

Dear Chair Valentine,

As the Indiana Arts Commission's appointing authority, this email serves as notice of Brenda Johnston's conflict of interest under IC 4-2-6-9.

Ms. Johnston is a Grant Reviewer for the FY26-27 Arts Organization Support Grant Program.

An ethics screen has been established and described in the attached Ethics Disclosure Form and will be filed with the State Ethics Commission.

Respectfully,

André

André Zhang Sonera, MPA

Deputy Director & Chief of Staff

Ethics Officer

Indiana Arts Commission

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